



Foundation for Excellent Schools

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MAYOR EDDIE PEREZ AND STUDENTS FROM 30 PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE IN HARTFORD'S FIRST EARLY COLLEGE AWARENESS BLITZ ON MAY 6

Dwight Elementary School, Sport & Medical Sciences Academy, Hartford Public High School, and Hartford Magnet Middle School are among the 30 public schools in Hartford, CT participating in the *Early College Awareness Blitz* on **Thursday, May 6, between 9 and 10 a.m.** The event will be a key rallying point in the second **Annual Early Awareness Week**, sponsored by Foundation for Excellent Schools (FES), Hartford Consortium for Higher Education, National Association for College Admission Counseling, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, Leadership Greater Hartford, Metro Hartford Chamber of Commerce, and dozens of other organizations, along with 35 colleges and universities from around the nation.

During the Blitz, City Hall employees, Mayor Eddie Perez, admissions officers, faculty, students, and alumni from colleges and universities throughout New England will carry the message **“College is for You”** to the Hartford students. As Goodwill Ambassadors from higher education, the speakers will describe in both practical and inspirational terms what it takes to access, prepare for, and succeed in college.

Through large assemblies, small-group discussions, college catalogue “Scavenger Hunts,” and engaging and informative games, the Ambassadors will interact with students around the college theme. A student at Hartford’s Sport and Medical Sciences Academy has created a special song about college that will be performed, and other students created inspirational posters that will be displayed at all Hartford schools.

“The Early College Awareness Blitz reinforces our education vision for the City,” said **Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez**. “It’s a great opportunity to jump-start our students’ dreams and get them on track toward the bright futures they deserve.”

“Throughout the week, students will read and write about college, while hallway exhibits, morning announcements, and admissions and financial aid presentations will all emphasize college,” said **Rick Dalton, president of FES**. “We want the whole event to



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celebrate the potential of every Hartford student to achieve success in higher education and beyond.”

“We are collaborating with a dozen Connecticut-based alumni clubs from colleges across the country and networking with several other organizations to ensure that the 23,000 students enrolled in Hartford schools hear the college message,” said Dalton.

WHERE: Dwight Elementary School

9:00 a.m.: Mayor Eddie Perez, Travelers Foundation President John Motley, and others to speak

9:30 a.m.: Sport and Medical Sciences Academy student Rafael Valdez to perform ECA Week song he wrote

Sport & Medical Sciences Academy

8:30-9:00 a.m.: Yale student to speak

9:00-10:15 a.m.: Admissions officers from 6 different colleges to speak

9:45 a.m.: Mayor Perez to speak

10:15 a.m.: Juniors meet with admissions officers

Hartford Public High School

7:45-10 a.m.: College Fair with admissions and financial aid officers from the University of Connecticut, Fairfield University, Yale University, Clark University, the University of Vermont, and other colleges and universities

10:30 a.m.: Mayor Perez, Higher Education Commissioner Valerie Lewis, Yale student to speak

Hartford Magnet Middle School

11:00 a.m.: Mayor Perez to speak

FOR A LIST OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AND DATES AND TIMES OF SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES, VISIT THE FES WEBSITE AT www.fesnet.org AND LOOK FOR THE HOMEPAGE LINK OR CONTACT **RICK DALTON, PRESIDENT, FES, AT (802) 462-3170.**